

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SCCT-01 SY-04 A-01 OPR-01 OC-05

CCO-00 SAM-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 USSS-00 AID-05 NIC-01

SCS-03 SCA-01 IO-10 FBO-02 ACDA-05 EB-07 /099 W

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O R 291730Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1565

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 529

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJ: JAN 31 DEMONSTRATIONS: SERIOUS PROBLEMS EITHER WAY

1. THREE IMPORTANT DEMONSTRATIONS ARE NOW SCHEDULED FOR  
FRIDAY JAN 31 AT FOLLOWING TIMES AND PLACES:

(A) SOCIALISTS (PS) 7:00 PM TO START AVENIDA LIBERDAD AND  
MARCH TO PRCAC DO COMERCIO.

(B) PCP, PLUS MDP, MES, AND FSP, 7:30 PM TO START AT  
ENTRECAMPOS AND MARCH TO PRACA DE POMBAL VIA REPUBLICA AND  
PEREIRA DE MELO.

(C) MRPP 7:30 PM IN ROSSIO.

2. TIMES AND PLACES OF DEMONSTRATIONS ARE CLOSE ENOUGH SO THERE  
COULD BE ADVERTANT OR INADVERTANT OVERLAPS AND CONFRONTATIONS.

SOCIALISTA ARE DETERMINED TO MAKE SHOW OF FORCE. HIGH PPD  
OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF JAN 29 THAT HE WOULD BE OUT HELPING  
SOCIALISTS PUT UP POSTERS AND THAT PPD WAS QUIETLY COOPERATING

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WITH PS TO MAKE DEMONSTRATION BIG SUCCESS.

3. PCP DEMONSTRATION IS LIKELY TO BE HIGHLY DISCIPLINED, BUT MRPP HAS HISTORY OF VIOLENCE AND ITS RALLY IS RIGHT IN PATH OF SOCIALIST MARCH.

4. WIDELY HELD VIEW IN LISBON IS THAT PCP SCHEDULED ITS RALLY AT SAME TIME AS PS IN ORDER PROVIDE GOP EXCUSE TO CANCEL ALL RALLIES. GOP HAS SAID NOTHING OFFICIAL TO DATE. SOARES TOLD AMBASSADOR PS WAS DETERMINED TO GO AHEAD DESPITE A CANCELLATION BY GOP.

5. THERE HAS ALSO BEEN SOME TALK OF JOINT RALLY SINCE PCP AND PS AT LEAST ARE BOTH OSTENSIBLY RALLYING IN SUPPORT OF AFM. COMMUNIST LEADER CUNHAL, AMONG OTHERS, FLOATED THE IDEA AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE JAN 27 (LISBON 493).

6. COMMENT: THIS IS A SERIOUS ISSUE FOR ALL CONCERNED: PRIME MINISTER REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED MATTER MORNING OF JAN 29 WITH SOARES, CUNHAL, AND MILITARY MINISTERS. QUESTION IS WHETHER GOP WILL GO ALONG WITH PCP MANEUVER TO PREVENT SOCIALIST SHOW OF FORCE. FEISTY SOCIALISTS UNLIKELY TO AGREE TO JOINT DEMONSTRATION AND COULD WELL DEFY GOVERNMENT ORDER TO CANCEL DEMONSTRATIONS.

7. IF PS DEMONSTRATION IS HELD IT WILL BE IMPORTANT INDICATOR OF ABILITY OF MODERATE FORCES IN PORTUGAL TO MUSTER SUPPORT.

8. THERE IS REAL QUESTION, IF VIOLENCE SHOULD TAKE PLACE, WHETHER SECURITY FORCES HAVE WITHER WILL OR CAPACITY TO HANDLE SITUATION.  
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## Message Attributes

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